



SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY STANDING MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 1, 2006

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Committee Members Present:

Jay La Vassar
John Coney
Martin Harper
Kimberley Orr
Darlene Hickman
Douglas Jennings
Elaine King
Nancy Ousley
Emily Evans
Doug Lorentzen
Tom Box

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Darrell Hines, SPU
Cliff Louie, DON

Others Present

Dave Church, SPU	Russell Howard, SPU
Florence Helliesen	Bill Fenimore
Melanie Whitehead, SPU	Mark Reid, SPU

I. Opening of Meeting and Housekeeping

The meeting was opened by Darlene Hickman at 6:35. Introductions followed.

The Agenda was amended to add an update on newly acquired properties. The minutes for the April 25, 2005 minutes were approved without change.

II. Update on Overall SPU Facilities Planning

Dave Church reported that Darrell Hines has continued with SPU. He noted that Dr. Hines had planned on retiring but has agreed to stay on and handle some of the planning activities. Many of his other activities have been assumed by Mr. Church.

Darrell Hines was introduced to give a presentation on current activities. He noted that he is working on the development of a vision for the campus that would not be encumbered by reality (money). He noted that this is an enjoyable work item in that it can be rather visionary. Little in this visioning process is set in time. He also noted that it is the intent that all of the projects anticipated could be accommodated within the current Major Institutions Master Plan without requiring either a new plan or major amendment to the existing plan. He noted that the visioning process is not to the detail that would be included in a Master Plan.

The first project being anticipated is student housing. The existing housing is aging and needs some upgrading. Since every school is competing for students, adequate housing is very important. The idea is to build a new student housing facility near 6th and Bertona. At the present time SPU is referring to this facility as the Irondale Residential Facility. The new facility would be similar to the Emerson facility and would include suites. However, it would not be stand alone apartments.

If this new housing is built it would not expand the student count. It is anticipated that if the Irondale facility is constructed, the Robbins Apartments would be closed. These buildings are outside of the MIO boundary and are not included in the Master Plan. They are both physically and topographically separated from the Campus and replacing them with an Irondale Block facility would bring the student housing within the MIO, reduce the sense of separation from campus for students, and help reduce traffic to the campus from these satellite housing facilities.

The second project is a new academic building at 3rd Avenue W. and W. Dravus Street. This is currently a parking lot. SPU does not currently have a fine arts facility and this facility might accommodate this function. Initially the building would be designed to accommodate some of the uses in Beegle Hall. This would include faculty offices, additional modern classrooms and fine arts spaces. Over time as other academic facilities are completed, the building could be converted totally to a fine arts complex.

The third new facility would be a new Student Union Building. Many universities have significant student union buildings. The idea is to demolish the current student union at Bertona and 3rd and relocate it to site of Weter Hall. The hope would be to renovate that building, but a demolition and rebuild option is also not out of the question. If that occurs, some other facilities that were anticipated might be postponed and a new science and classroom building constructed at the old Student Union Building site. Various parking improvements would also be made. Dr. Hines noted that the Chapel and Performance Hall, that are currently a part of the Master Plan, are considered to be "donor driven". This means that SPU will not finance them from bonds or revenues. Other facilities may also be evaluated but are not far along in planning.

Nancy Ousley asked what the timing was for the Master Plan and if these changes would trigger the completion of a new plan. Darrell Hines stated that a new plan would be required only if the Institution was to exceed its allowed square footage, and that since this is not the case, SPU is not anticipating a new plan at this point.

III. Irondale Residential Facility

Dave Church was recognized to give a presentation on the Irondale Residential Building. The project is tied to funding. At this point SPU has contracted with Mithun Architects to undertake a feasibility study of this facility. Evaluation of the building is in its earliest phase. Programming has not yet occurred and SPU will proceed with planning over the next months. The facility would have about 150 beds. The idea is to buffer the neighborhood from the core of the campus with the Student Housing. The facility would replace the beds in Robbins (120 beds) and some other facilities. The facility would also include parking.

Emily Evans asked what percentage of the SPU students have cars. Mark Reid responded that about 60% of the students have cars. He also noted that the Robins Apartments only has between 15 and 17 parking stalls and the new building might include up to 90 parking spaces. .

Jay La Vassar asked if the project would necessitate the vacation of the alley in the Irondale Block. Mr. Reid responded that this was not presently anticipated.

IV. Proposed Traffic and Circulation Changes Along 3rd Ave. W.

Melanie Whitehead gave a brief presentation on efforts to change the location of the Route 13 bus layover to facilitate the striping of a crosswalk at W. Bertona St. and Third Avenue W. In the fall of 2005 studies indicated that 519 students crossed Third Ave. W. at W. Bertona St. in a two-hour time period. Members noted that over the years there have been many pedestrian accidents at 3rd and Bertona and that a signal might be warranted. Staff responded that while this location might warrant a signal the apparent reason why it is not there is that the existing signal at Third Ave. W. and W. Nickerson St. is in too close proximity to add another signal. SPU staff stated that they will continue to work on this.

V. Update on Neighborhood Traffic Issues

John Coney, Queen Anne Community Council Transportation Committee Chair and member of the SAC, was introduced to discuss this issue. Mr. Coney presented a map showing the mitigation measures that are related to the reduction of capacity over the Fremont Bridge during renovation. The approaches to the bridge are being reconstructed and this will result in a reduction of the size of the turn pocket from 8 to 3 cars. The mitigation measures grow out of longstanding conflicts concerning cut-through traffic in nearby neighborhoods including the North Slope Group. These groups met with SDOT and proposed permanent measures to solve the issues. As a test, some mitigation is being proposed on a temporary basis funded from the mitigation funds associated with the renovation of the Fremont Bridge.

Initially SDOT approved a long list of Mitigation Measures. The Queen Anne Community Council had originally asked SDOT to deal with the mitigation of the Fremont Bridge closure with signage. However, there were so many mitigation measures proposed, and they seemed so peripheral to the Fremont Bridge, that the Community Council appointed an ad-hoc committee to meet with the North Slope Steering Committee and the Mayfair Neighborhood Group and SDOT to hammer out an agreed upon proposal. SDOT went along with the Community Council position. He briefly went over the mitigation measures that would affect the campus. He stated that the proposals that are near the campus are:

1. Chicane at 1st West and Fulton with 'Do Not Enter' signs.
2. Chicane at 1st and Newal with 'Do Not Enter' signs. –
3. New Temporary Traffic Circle at 1st West and Armor -
4. Installation of a Chicane and 'Do Not Enter' sign east-bound at Queen and Avenue and Fulton

The chicanes are curb bulb that make the street narrower and circuitous. These will essentially eliminate 1st West as a through street in this area.

VI. Transportation and Parking Update from SPU

Mark Reid gave a presentation on SPU transportation and parking issues. He noted that there are two major factors that shape the SPU plans: The State Trip Reduction Program; and the various City programs including those called for in the Major Institutions Code. All of these programs require various reporting and survey provisions and SPU therefore conducts an annual transportation survey that it uses for both programs and for the evaluation of the Metro Flex Pass program.

SPU uses various tools to manage its commute trips. Parking management is used to discourage student commuting to campus. This involves striking a delicate balance to help discourage excessive use of cars where reasonable alternatives exist while not making the restrictions too draconian. SPU tries to encourage all reasonable alternatives. Unfortunately, SPU is not particularly well served by transit. Still SPU offers subsidized bus passes, encourages car pooling and van pooling. SPU also encourages bicycle use and provides showers and lockers and also provides ride match program.

The present mix of parking on campus includes 705 spaces for commuters to campus, 523 spaces for on-campus residents and 21 carpool spaces. There are currently about 2000 persons registered for SPU provided parking.

SPU provides a variety of subsidies. The funds for these subsidies come primarily from the parking fees. This includes free bus passes for all employees and a 35% discount for all students. SPU provides vouchers for those who use the ferries if other parts of their commute involve HOV use. There is a free ride home guarantee for emergency situations.

VII – Public Comments

Florence Helliesen noted that there is a property at 717 West Cremona that is being sold to SPU. She asked for clarification concerning this sale. She also stated that there is ongoing concern over through traffic in the area and parking impacts. She also stated that if the SUB is moved it might create more noise in the area.

Bill Fenimore stated he lives between SPU and the Wesley Apartments. He noted that he has experienced problems with student partying and has called SPU security concerning these situations. His experience is that the security guards have not been very helpful. Dave Church stated that he was sorry that this had occurred. He noted that he was aware of the specific incident and that SPU's actions in this regard were not acceptable. Florence Helliesen also noted that there has always been noise associated with the "Hill Beach Party" that occurs in May which annoys the neighbors. Jay La Vassar stated that he has seen some improvement over the last 10 years.

VII Adjournment

No further business being before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM